

While this transfer would only apply to land and facilities and would not affect the repayment obligations of the Federal Government, it will help simplify the operation and maintenance of the districts' water delivery systems and eliminate unnecessary paperwork. Both districts have worked through all Federal requirements and need only to complete the process with an act of Congress.

Transfers such as those included in this bill help shrink the size and budget of Federal Government and help our communities manage our water resources in a more efficient manner. I urge my colleagues to support this consensus bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1648 simply authorizes the transfer of certain features of the Bureau of Reclamation's Cachuma Project near Santa Barbara, California, to the local water districts. Allowing the local districts to take over parts of the project will help simplify the operation and maintenance of the districts' water distribution systems. I would like very much to commend the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), my Democratic colleague and sponsor of this bill, who is unable to be on the floor at this moment, for her efforts to get this very important bill passed.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1648 is not controversial, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1648, the Carpinteria and Montecito Water Distribution Systems Conveyance Act of 2003—a bill I introduced that would authorize the title transfer of federally owned water distribution systems in my congressional district.

I want to commend my colleagues from California, the chairman of the Resources Committee, Mr. POMBO, the chairman and ranking member of the Subcommittee on Water and Power, Mr. CALVERT and Mrs. NAPOLITANO, as well as the ranking member of the full Committee, Mr. RAHALL for expediting the consideration of this legislation in their respective committees and for bringing H.R. 1648 before us today.

This legislation will authorize the title transfer of two federally owned water distribution systems from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Carpinteria Valley Water District and Montecito Water District, as requested by the two Santa Barbara area Districts.

The purpose of the legislation is to simplify the operation and maintenance of the Districts' water distribution systems and eliminate unnecessary paperwork and consultation between the Districts and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Carpinteria Valley Water District and Montecito Water District, which have operated and maintained the facilities proposed for transfer since 1956 and 1995, respectively.

The Districts have worked through all requirements of the Bureau of Reclamation's title transfer process including public meetings, fulfillment of their repayment obligations, completion of an environmental assessment, which resulted in a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), and compliance with all other applicable laws. The only step remaining to complete the process is an act of Congress enabling the Secretary of the Interior to transfer title.

The proposed transfer would apply only to lands and facilities associated with these facilities and would not affect the Districts' existing water service contract with the Santa Barbara County Water Agency nor the Federal government receipts from water deliveries under the contract. In addition, the proposed transfer does not envision any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, the proposed transfer of ownership would include the following facilities:

Carpinteria: The distribution system consisting of 36 miles of pipeline and laterals; Gobernador Reservoir; Shephard Mesa Tank; Lateral 10L, Carpinteria and Shephard Mesa pumping plants; several pressure regulating vaults located throughout the system; fences and structures; and rights-of-way, easements, leases and other property permitting access to the Federal system.

Montecito: 9.5 miles of pipelines and laterals; the Asegra Pumping Plant (a deactivated pumping plant connected to a portion of lateral 3 located on Asegra Road); Ortega Ridge Pumping plant located on Ortega Ridge Road; pressure regulating vaults, fences and structures appurtenant to the distribution system; and rights-of-way, easements, leases, and other property permitting access to the Federal system.

Again, I would like to thank the Committee on Resources for supporting this bill, and urge its immediate passage.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from California for her assistance through this process.

I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1648.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 101ST AIRBORNE AT FORT CAMPBELL

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk a little bit about the 101st Airborne at Fort Campbell, which is in Clarksville, Tennessee, and in my district. And I have visited with General Petreaus, commander of the 101st, and members of this elite group

of American soldiers in Mosul where they are working to stabilize Iraq. Their work in Iraq is absolutely astounding. What they have accomplished is astounding, and it is a testament to their training, to their dedication, and to their love of liberty.

For the past 2 weeks the activity has absolutely broken our hearts. We have lost some of our Nation's finest, and Fort Campbell has lost some loved ones. And to the family, the friends, and their colleagues, we offer our thoughts and our prayers. And we want them to know that America is grateful not only for their service but certainly grateful for their sacrifice.

Throughout the history of the 101st, this country has relied on these brave soldiers, these brave defenders of freedom, to keep us free; and today is no different. We ask that God bless America, that He bless our Fort Campbell families and our fallen heroes.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1900

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN) at 7 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S.J. Res. 22, by the yeas and nays;

S.J. Res. 18, by the yeas and nays;

H. Con. Res. 299, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The remaining votes in this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

RECOGNIZING AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE FOR 50 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 22.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 22, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.